

Statement by Ray E. Kidder prepared for release at the Manhattan Project II press conference to be held on June 11, 1992:

Reasons for Planning a Timely End to the Testing of Nuclear Weapons

The testing of nuclear weapons by the five nuclear powers is bi-stable. That is, unless all of them agree to a permanent halt in testing, none of them will. It's five or none.

To prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, a strong position that affirms the possible use of sanctions against proliferators should be agreed to by the members of the Security Council of the United Nations. The prospects of such agreement are not improved, nor are the incentives to potential proliferators minimized, if the permanent members themselves continue to test nuclear weapons, and continue to disagree about the importance of an end to testing. Therefore: It should be none, not five.

For these reasons, I believe that: The 'nuclear five' should agree that a Comprehensive Test Ban shall go into effect before the end of 1995, the year in which the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty comes up for review and renewal.

Some members of the 'nuclear five' may insist that a few more nuclear tests are needed to be prepared for a CTB. It is my conclusion, based on my recent evaluation of the safety of the U.S. nuclear stockpile, that safety benefits may warrant additional U.S. tests. As few as four would most probably suffice, and those could be completed within three years.
